

# MONTGOMERY COUNTY COMMISSION FOR WOMEN

401 North Washington Street, Suite 100  
Rockville, Maryland 20850

## MEETING MINUTES

September 28, 2005

7:12 p.m.

### ATTENDING

Gloria A. Aparicio  
Patricia E. Cornish  
Holly Fechner  
Deborah L. Horan  
Shirley L. Johnson  
Anne S. Kasper  
Elizabeth Keyes  
Resa Levy  
Fauzia R. Najm  
Martha Nguyen  
Regina L. Oldak  
Tedi S. Osias  
Shelia Parker  
Gary P. Smith  
Yun Jung Yang

### STAFF

Paula S. Rodgers  
Tracy Stuger  
Judith Vaughan-Prather

### GUESTS

Bonnie Coffey, Executive Director, NACW  
Debra Sober, Baltimore County CFW  
Jacqueline Wilson, Baltimore County CFW

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## I. CALL TO ORDER/APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES.....Horan

President Horan called the meeting to order at 7:12 p.m. Additions to the agenda were noted under the following agenda items:

- Unfinished Business - to add a report on the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council hearing
- Committee Reports - to add the approval of Committee Workplans

Upon the motion of Commissioner Oldak; seconded by Commissioner Johnson, the revised agenda was approved.

Commissioner Kasper noted an amendment to Item VII (b) of the August 24, 2005 Minutes. On page 8, the description of legislation regarding breast cancer should read:

*“...fully funding an unfunded mandate for breast reconstruction under existing legislation, the breast and cervical cancer diagnosis treatment program of Maryland.”*

Upon the motion of Commissioner Johnson; duly seconded by Commissioner Osias, the Minutes of August 24, 2005 were approved as amended.

President Horan welcomed and introduced guests Debra Sober, Jacqueline Wilson and Bonnie Coffey.

Bonnie Coffey is the Executive Director of the Lincoln-Lancaster Commission on the Status of Women. She was elected President of the National Association of Commissions for Women at the NACW's annual conference in July 2005. Bonnie has served as Vice President of NACW and as a member of its Board of Directors. She traveled from Nebraska to work on the transition of the national office in Silver Spring and to visit the newly established national office at MCCFW.

Jacqueline Wilson is the Executive Director of the Baltimore County Commission for Women. She was elected to serve as a member of the Board of Directors of the NACW at the annual conference in July.

Debra Sober is a member of the Baltimore County Commission for Women and an attorney in Towson. She was elected to serve as Treasurer of NACW at this summer's conference. Both Debra and Jackie have been working tirelessly to help resolve NACW's financial issues and to assist in the transition of the national office.

## **II. NACW**

Ms. Coffey said that 10 years ago, when she first got involved with the NACW, Executive Director Judith Vaughan-Prather was one of the first people she met, and she always admired Ms. Vaughan-Prather as a talented and gifted director of the Montgomery County Commission for Women.

Ms. Coffey thanked the commissioners for their support in helping NACW as it tries to regain its strength as a prominent national organization. She said that the NACW Board of Directors has some remarkable women who are committed to strengthening the organization's membership and they were grateful for MCCFW's help and Ms. Vaughan-Prather's assistance. She remarked that NACW's focus is on encouraging and increasing membership and improving the organization's financial situation.

### **III. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT .....Horan**

#### **A. Important Events**

President Horan noted the following upcoming events:

- The BPW Women of Achievement Dinner on October 6 at 6:30 pm at the Holiday Inn in Gaithersburg. Commissioner Shirley Johnson is one of the nine distinguished women being honored. Anyone interested in attending should see Commissioner Cornish.
- WBO Celebrates Success Gala Luncheon and Athena Award on October 21 at the Gaithersburg Hilton from 10 am to 3 pm. Commissioner Cornish is being honored as one of 25 outstanding Montgomery County women.
- Women's Law Center of Maryland Annual Meeting and Awards Ceremony on October 25 at the Wyndham Baltimore Inner Harbor Hotel at 6:00 p.m. Executive Director Judith Vaughan-Prather is being honored with the Annual Dorothy Beatty Memorial Award for her significant contributions to advancing women's rights.

#### **B. Montgomery County Sex Education Task Force**

The Montgomery County School Board is reconstituting its Sexual Education Task Force in order to revise the sex ed curriculum. A forum is being held on September 25. President Horan agreed to serve as a liaison on the Task Force, but will be unable to attend the forum.

### **IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

#### **A. Community Service Day 2005**

Commissioner Aparicio explained that she had been in contact with a representative of the Montgomery County Volunteer Bureau who suggested several community service projects that the CFW could undertake for Community Service Day 2005. Commissioners liked the idea of supporting a single mother headed household for the holidays. President Horan moved that the CFW for its Community Service Day project, "adopt" a single parent family through the Volunteer Bureau's Holiday Giving project. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Levy and passed unanimously. Ms. Aparicio will obtain the details and coordinate the contributions from CFW commissioners and staff.

#### **B. Domestic Violence Coordinating Council**

The County Council's hearing on the legislation to create a Domestic Violence Coordinating Council took place on September 20. President Horan delivered testimony on behalf of CFW. Ms. Horan reported that at the hearing, Council

President Perez inquired about whether the issue of domestic violence would be included in the CFW's Status of Women in Montgomery County project.

**V. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Maryland CFW 2006 Hall of Fame**

The CFW Executive Committee has not identified a nominee for the 2006 Maryland Women's Hall of Fame. Last year, the CFW successfully nominated Vivian Simpson and Emily Edmonson who were inducted into the 2004 Maryland Women's Hall of Fame. The commissioners decided not to submit a nomination this year.

**VI. STAFF REPORT .....Vaughan-Prather**

**A. Staffing/Interns**

(1) Executive Director Vaughan-Prather reported that approval was granted to hire an 8-hour per week Public Administrative Intern to work on the Status of Women report update. Ms. Vaughan-Prather and Budget and Legislative Specialist Tracy Stuger recently completed interviews for the position and a selection was made. The Intern will start in early October.

(2) Executive Director Vaughan-Prather said that CFW recently welcomed two volunteers who have joined the CFW office. Chelsea Bowers is a senior at the University of Maryland, majoring in Sociology with a certificate in women's studies. Miss Bowers will be assisting with work for the Women's Legislative Briefing.

Mary Kroh has over 20 years experience in the corporate sector and recently returned to school and received her Bachelors Degree. She offered her volunteer services to CFW in order to gain work experience in the non-profit sector. Ms. Kroh will be assisting with National Association of Commissions for Women assignments.

**B. FY05 Annual Report**

CFW and Counseling Center staff have begun working on their FY05 Annual Report submissions.

**C. FY07 Budget**

The County's FY07 Budget development process was launched today and Budget and Legislative Specialist Tracy Stuger attended the session. The Commission's FY 07 Budget proposal is due on November 30. The CFW received its departmental Maximum Agency Request Ceiling (MARC). The department does not anticipate having to propose a decrease in funding for any of its services in FY07, but neither is there room for any new programs. The department's MARC includes funding for the printing of the Status of Women report.

## VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

### A. Policy and Legislation (PAL) .....Kasper

At the meeting held September 14, Commissioner Kasper was selected to serve as Chair of the Policy and Legislation Committee.

- (1) Workplan - Commissioner Kasper presented the Committee's FY06 Workplan for approval. Two changes were noted: In Objective 3, the Maryland Legislative Agenda for Women (MLAW) will be spelled out. In Objective 4 and Outcome Measure 4, references to the Maryland General Assembly will be added. Ms. Kasper moved approval of the FY06 PAL Workplan, as amended, and it was unanimously approved.
- (2) The MLAW Conference date has changed to October 22, 2005. It will be held at the Baltimore YWCA. There is an application process to present proposals for the agenda and there is also a registration form for those who want to attend. Criteria for proposals have been refined.
- (3) The National Women's Health Network (Commissioner Kasper's endorsing organization), will be represented at the MLAW Conference by Dr. Deborah Schumann who will present the issue of healthcare reform.
- (4) The veto override for SB 257, a bill which proposes to strengthen and stabilize the Maryland Commission for Women, will not be on the MLAW agenda even though it is an MLAW priority, because the veto override vote will take place before the Maryland General Assembly session begins.
- (5) Commissioner Fechner said that as part of the response to Hurricane Katrina, President Bush suspended the Department of Labor's requirements of Executive Order 1246, which governs Affirmative Action for federal contractors. She said that other waivers that affect women and minorities were granted as well. Legislation will be introduced in Congress to reinstate those requirements and Ms. Fechner encouraged women's groups to write to their Congressional representatives in support of the legislation.

### B. Immigrant Women in Montgomery County (IWIN) .....Yang

At the meeting held on September 21, 2005, Commissioner Yang was selected to serve as Chair of the IWIN Committee.

- (1) Commissioner Yang reported that the translations for the Spanish and Korean language booklets (*Sexual Harassment in the Workplace* and *Employment Rights of Pregnant Women*) are almost complete. Donations received for the project will cover the costs for the Spanish and Korean versions. The CFW budget paid for the English version of the brochures in FY05 and will provide funding for one additional language this year; therefore, the committee needs to raise \$4,000 to print the brochure in its fifth language.

- (2) A strategy for distributing the booklets needs to be developed and the committee hopes to launch the IWORK Campaign with a press conference on March 8 – International Women’s Day.
- (3) The Committee will begin development of the third brochure in the IWORK campaign, on domestic workers.
- (4) The IWIN Committee is hosting a Diversity Week seminar for Montgomery County employees on October 28. The seminar, “*Undocumented, Exploited and Invisible: immigrant women, domestic servitude and forced prostitution*” will take place at the County Executive Office Building 1<sup>st</sup> floor auditorium from 12 to 1:30 p.m.

Commissioner Yang moved approval of the FY06 IWIN Workplan and it was unanimously approved.

C. Status of Women in Montgomery County (SWIM) .....Cornish

At the meeting held on September 21, 2005, Commissioner Cornish was selected to serve as Chair of the SWIM Committee.

- (1) Commissioner Cornish said that the SWIM Committee will update and expand on the areas covered by the original report published in 1997. It was agreed that data would again be collected in the following eight areas:
  - Overview of Women in Montgomery County
  - Women and the Economy/Labor Force, possibly with more emphasis on women as business owners
  - Women and Education (include girls in technology, college board exam performance, percent of high school graduates; drop out rates for pregnancy and other related data)
  - Women and Health (expand to include women as care-givers)
  - Women and the Law (include girls and gangs)
  - Women and Politics (include Boards, Committees and Commissions)
  - Immigrant Women
  - Older Women
- (2) In the first year, the committee hopes to gather the quantitative data, and in the second year, a series of focus groups will be held with the representatives of some of the populations highlighted in the report to collect qualitative data.

Commissioner Cornish moved for the approval of the FY06 SWIM Workplan and it was unanimously approved.

D. CFW Education and Outreach Activities – Commissioner Aparicio suggested adding a component to Strategy 4, to seek outreach opportunities through the media (cable, radio, etc.)

Currently, there is no formal liaison between CFW and the Maryland Alliance for Women's Employment and the Women Business Owners Association and it was suggested that the two organizations be removed from the Plan until someone offers to serve as a liaison to the groups. The Education and Outreach Activities Plan was approved as amended.

Upon the motion of President Horan, duly seconded, the overall CFW Workplan for FY06 was unanimously approved.

## **VIII. LIAISON REPORTS**

### **A. Women's Fair**

Commissioner Levy reported that plans for the 2006 Women's Fair are underway. Ms. Levy is working with Barbara Smith on fundraising. Ms. Levy will find out what the attendance was at the 2005 Women's Fair. (*Staff's Note: The 2006 Women's Fair will be held on April 1, 2006.*)

### **B. Divorce Roundtable**

Commissioner Osias reported that the Divorce Roundtable held its retreat on September 20 and she attended it for the first couple of hours. The group consists of service providers, lawyers and judges who are trying to improve the outcome for families experiencing divorce. Ms. Osias said that she was very impressed with the commitment and focus of the group. Elma Rambo, Manager of the CFW Counseling and Career Center has been offered as the CFW's liaison to the Roundtable for the coming year, and Ms. Osias said that she fully expects that this offer will be accepted.

### **C. Fair Housing**

Commissioner Johnson said that an all-day retreat was conducted by the Office of Human Rights (OHR) under the direction of Mike Dennis, the acting director of OHR. Two events are being planned, similar to the one held on predatory lending. Ms. Johnson brought a video tape of the predatory lending hearing that took place in July.

## **IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

A. League of Women Voters Event - On September 19, Commissioner Yang spoke at the League of Women Voter's luncheon on the "*Ins and Outs of Becoming a New American.*" Approximately 80 people attended the luncheon which was held at Normandy Farms Restaurant.

B. Commissioner Johnson noted that the PEW Research Center, a subsidiary of the Pew Charitable Trusts based in Philadelphia, recently issued a report on immigration.

- C. CFW just received a suggestion from former president Judith Vandegriff, that the CFW urge the County Executive to establish a task force to study teen violence, especially among girls. The suggestion was in response to the death of a 15-year old Rockville High School student who was fatally stabbed by another girl at a football game. Commissioner Smith suggested that the CFW monitor the response of the Montgomery County Public Schools and the County government to determine whether appropriate measures are being taken. President Horan agreed to respond to Ms. Vandegriff.

**X. ELECTION OF CFW 1<sup>ST</sup> AND 2<sup>ND</sup> VICE PRESIDENT**

There were no nominations from the floor for the offices of 1st and 2nd Vice President. Upon a motion made and seconded, Commissioner Oldak was unanimously elected to serve as 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President of CFW for FY 2006 and Commissioner Osias was unanimously elected to serve as 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President of CFW for FY 2006.

**XI. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Commission for Women, the meeting was adjourned at 9:12 p.m.

**Minutes Submitted By  
Paula S. Rodgers  
Montgomery County Commission for Women**



# **CFW Action and Follow-Up Items**

- ☐ 1. Upcoming Events:
  - The BPW Women of Achievement Dinner on October 6 at 6:30 pm at the Holiday Inn in Gaithersburg. Commissioner Shirley Johnson is being honored as one of the nine distinguished women. Anyone interested in attending should see Commissioner Cornish.
  - WBO Celebrates Success Gala Luncheon and Athena Award on October 21 at the Gaithersburg Hilton from 10 am to 3 pm. Commissioner Cornish is being honored as one of 25 outstanding Montgomery County women.
  - Women's Law Center of Maryland Annual Meeting and Awards Ceremony on October 25 at the Wyndham Baltimore Inner Harbor Hotel at 6:00 p.m. Executive Director Judith Vaughan-Prather is being honored with the Annual Dorothy Beatty Memorial Award for her significant contributions to advancing women's rights.
- ☐ 2. Commissioner Aparicio will obtain the details about the Volunteer Bureau's Holiday Giving project and coordinate the contributions from CFW commissioners and staff for CFW's 2005 Community Service Day Project.
- ☐ 3. Commissioners are invited to attend the IWIN Committee's Diversity Week seminar on October 28. The seminar, "*Undocumented, Exploited and Invisible: immigrant women, domestic servitude and forced prostitution*" will take place at the County Executive Office Building 1<sup>st</sup> floor auditorium from 12 to 1:30 p.m.
- ☐ 4. Commissioner Levy will find out what the attendance was at the 2005 Women's Fair.
- ☐ 5. President Horan will respond to former CFW president Judith Vandegriff regarding her suggestion on the establishment of a task force to study teen violence among girls.